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## EDITORIAL NOTES

GEORGE HERBERT LOCKE

FOR the excellent illustrations of the American system of education and the German system of education which we published in our June number we are indebted to Dr. Henry L. Taylor of the Regent's Office, Albany, N. Y., to whom, also, we are sure, our readers feel a debt of gratitude for the excellent articles that he has been contributing on Education at the Paris Exposition.

WAYS and means of providing public secondary education for the children of England is now engaging the attention of the educational workers of that land. Mr. Clondesley Brereton, one of the most untiring of these agitators, made a statement in a recent address which will meet with a hearty response from our readers. He said :

The best training for the intelligence and the character and for the fostering of public spirit can alone come from a secondary school. It is obvious that any district that is insufficiently supplied with these "nurseries" of public spirit and trained intelligence must be at a serious disadvantage in comparison with the others, through the standard of intellectual expectancy in the area being lower than need be.

AN interesting contribution to the much discussed subject of commercial education was made by Sir Joshua Fitch in a recent address before the Society of Arts in London. He had asked a London banker of large business experience the question, "What are the qualifications you hold to be most important when you are seeking a new clerk for your bank?" The reply was simple and direct :

Next to a good character and reputable family associations, it is requisite that he should have had a good general education, that he should write well and have an intelligent acquaintance with arithmetic, and that he should *not* have learned book-keeping. In the office we have our own system of accounts, and we can teach him in a few days all that is distinctive in that system. He would be rather hindered than helped in acquiring this if he came to us with a formulated set of rules such as he would gain in the use of the school-book exercises. A sensible knowledge of the principles of arithmetic is of much more importance than the use of a number of book rules supposed to deal with practical business problems.

THERE has been so much written in the daily papers about Mr. Carnegie's great gift to the Scottish universities and so many contradictory statements made, that perhaps it may be worth while to outline the leading features of the scheme as given in the deed of trust. The trust is to be managed by an executive council of nine, who have the fullest power and discretion in

expending the income in the way they think best fitted to promote the two main objects: (*a*) to improve and extend the opportunities for scientific study and research in the universities of Scotland, and (*b*) to render attendance at these universities and the enjoyment of their advantages more available to the deserving and qualified youth of that country to whom the payment of fees might act as a barrier to the enjoyment of these advantages. Half the income is to be devoted to the improvement and extension of the universities of Scotland in the faculties of science and medicine, and to improving and extending the opportunities for scientific study and research, and increasing the facilities for acquiring a knowledge of history, economics, English literature and modern languages, and other subjects relating to a technical or commercial education. The other half of the income, or such part of it as is necessary, is to be devoted to the payment of the whole or part of the ordinary class-fees exigible by the universities from students of Scottish birth or extraction, or scholars who have given two years' attendance after the age of fourteen at state-aided schools in Scotland, or such other schools as are under the inspection of the Scottish Education Department. The committee may give additional financial aid to students who show exceptional merit, and may withhold payment of fees in the cases of students guilty of misconduct or who fail to pass the ordinary examinations of the university within a reasonable time. Extra-mural colleges, schools, or classes in Scotland, attendance at which is recognized as qualifying for graduation, are, on application, to be entitled to all the benefits of the scheme. The benefits of the trust are to be open both to men and women. The trustees have full power, by a majority of two thirds of their number, to modify the conditions under which the funds may be applied, having regard always to the purposes of the donor.

ONE of the most noteworthy events of the year in connection with secondary education was the holding of the first examinations of the Association of the Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland. There was no advertising and no bidding for popular favor, but there was a dignity in the management and a fairness about the matter and manner of questions asked that will do much to inspire confidence in this great work. That the time has come for unification in college-entrance requirements is apparent to all who are engaged in the work of secondary education, and now, for the first time, there is a definite plan in working order which is submitted for criticism and suggestion. This has already had a good effect, for the New England Association, at its last meeting, appointed a committee to investigate the plan and report the possibilities for the colleges and schools of that section. The report has just been issued, and will be submitted at the annual meeting next month. The principal points of the proposed plan are as follows:

1. That the College-Entrance Examination Board consist of the President, or an authorized representative, of each college or university in New England which

maintains an examination system exclusively, or which is prepared to coöperate in substituting an examination system for the certificate system, and of [five] representatives of secondary schools in New England, the latter to be chosen annually by the New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools, or in such manner as the Association shall direct.

2. That the Board elect a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer, the last two of whom need not be members of the Board.

3. That the Board choose annually an executive committee of five members, including at least two representatives of the secondary schools, said committee to have such powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

4. That the work of the Board be confined to the conduct of written examinations and to matters directly incident thereto, including the preparation of such a schedule and division of examination subjects as shall meet, as nearly as possible, the various requirements of the several colleges participating.

5. That not later than December of each academic year, the Board designate, for each subject in which it is proposed to hold an examination, a college teacher to act as chief examiner, and two additional college teachers to act as associate examiners, and fix their compensation; that the examiners so appointed prepare examination questions in the several subjects, to be used at the annual examinations to be held under the direction of the Board; that differences in the requirements of different colleges be recognized by a subdivision of the subjects in which the papers are set, rather than by separate ratings on the same paper; that when the several examination papers shall have been agreed upon by the respective groups of examiners, they be submitted for approval or revision to a committee consisting of the chief examiners and representatives of the college members of the Board; and that the action of this committee of revision be final.

6. That not later than May of each academic year, the Board appoint a staff of readers to read and mark the answer-books offered at the examinations, and fix their compensation; and that both college and secondary-school teachers be eligible for such appointments.

7. That the examination papers be transmitted, as soon as approved by the committee of revision, to the secretary of the Board, and be printed and distributed, under his direction, to such examination centers, and in accordance with such regulations, as the Board may from time to time determine.

8. That the examinations be held at such times, in such places, and under such regulations as the Board, or its executive committee, may from year to year determine.

9. That immediately on the completion of the examinations, the answer-books be transmitted, in sealed packages, to the secretary of the Board, who shall assign them for reading and marking to such readers as the Board may have chosen; that the books in each subject be read under such conditions as will admit of repeated consultation among the readers: that the answer-books, together with the mark assigned to each, be returned by the readers, within one week after their receipt, to the secretary of the Board, who shall thereupon prepare and issue to each candidate a certificate setting forth the name, residence, and age of the candidate, the name of school last attended, or, if privately taught, the name of the last teacher, the subjects in which examinations were taken, the mark assigned in each subject, and the place and date of the examination; that the certificates issued be valid without limit of

time; and that the marks in each subject be sent to the school or teacher upon request.

10. That answer-books be marked on a scale including not less than five divisions; that a definite "pass" mark be fixed, but that no book falling below that mark be finally marked until it has been passed upon by two readers; that no revision of any answer-book be made after its mark has been reported to the secretary of the Board; and that all books be kept for two years, subject to being sent, at any time within that period, at the request of the candidate, to any designated college.

11. That before admission to examination in any year, each candidate be required to pay a fee of five dollars, and be given a receipt therefor; that the amount of such fees, together with the answer-books and a correct list of the candidates, be transmitted to the secretary of the Board, the fees to be by him paid over to the treasurer.

12. That salaries, bills, and other claims against the Board be paid by the treasurer on the order of the chairman of the executive committee.

13. That the Board be given power to amend its plan of organization by a two thirds vote of those present at any meeting, provided that due notice of the proposed change be given in the call for the meeting.

This is fundamentally the plan of the Association of the Middle States and Maryland, but so changed as to incorporate the views of the committee regarding certain points that will make it more in accord with the traditional procedure of the colleges of New England.

The committee offer also an alternative plan, which seems to them to be capable of as easy and effective administration as the other, but which gives the college the direct control over its own examinations. The first seven sections are the same as in the first plan, as also are the twelfth and thirteenth, but the sections eight to eleven are amended to read as follows:

8. That immediately on the completion of the examinations, the answer-books be transmitted, in sealed packages, to the various colleges, according to the directions given by the individual candidates.

9. That each college read and mark the answer-books of its own candidates, and transmit the results to the candidates directly, to the secretary of the Board, and, upon request, to the school or teacher.

10. That every answer-book be preserved by the college first receiving it for two years, unless before the expiration of that time the candidate, or his representative, shall direct that the book be sent to the authorities of some other college.

11. That before admission to examination in any year, each candidate be required to pay a fee of five dollars, and be given a receipt therefor; that the amount of such fees, together with a correct list of the candidates, be transmitted to the secretary of the Board, the fees to be by him paid over to the treasurer; and that any surplus from the amount thus received, after the payment of the examiners' fees and other necessary expenses of the Board, be divided each year among the colleges according to the respective numbers of their candidates in that year.

The committee conclude their report by making the following recommendations:

1. That the New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools declares itself in favor of requesting the colleges to establish a New England College Entrance Examination Board.

2. That the Association, reserving for separate consideration the policy that should be adopted relative to the reading, marking, and acceptance of answer-books, commend to the colleges so much of the first plan herewith presented as does not involve this policy.

3. That, for the present, the function of reading the answer-books and acting thereon be retained by the colleges, the question of the transference of such function to the Examining Board being reserved for later consideration by the Colleges.

In connection with the third recommendation the committee beg to say that they are agreed that the policy of intrusting the reading, marking, and acceptance of answer-books to a central examining board is desirable provided ways can be devised of giving due recognition to such factors in the candidate's preparation and work as are not likely to be regarded in an examination of a formal and impersonal character. In view, however, of differences of opinion and only as to the wisdom of developing such a duty upon the Board at the start, but also as to the practicability of securing the establishment of a College-Entrance Examination Board at all on the basis of such a grant of power, the committee limit themselves to the recommendation as given.

4. That the Association appoint a committee empowered to represent the Association in any conferences that may be held between the colleges and the preparatory schools, in case the participation of the Association in such conference shall be desired.